essential to the needs of large majority of the people of the country; at making the price control less cumbersome but more effective by reducing the span of control and at ensuring a reasonable return to the producers of essential drugs, while at the same time restricting undue increase in their price. With a view to encourage production of drugs which are more essential to the needs of the country, incentives, other than the MAPE would also be considered. It is also proposed to strictly monitor the prices of drugs of decontrolled category and to develop an effective monitoring mechanism for this purpose with a view to bringing any drug in decontrolled category within the ambit of control at any point of time, should it be considered necessary to do so.

Meeting of Expert Committee

969. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 165 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expert Committee has decided to meet the associations of the Drug Industry and Medical Profession before finalisation of their recommendations for inclusion of drugs under Category II;

(b) if so, how many meetings in this regard have been held till date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee recently held a meeting at Bombay;

(d) if so, what are the names of the associations of Industry, Trade, Consumer and Medical Profession with whom the aforesaid meeting was held;

(e) whether it is also a fact the none of the three Medical experts were present in the meeting; and

(f) if so, what were the reasons therefor and what purpose would be served without the presence of Medical experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Committee met the following in this regard at Bombay on 31st March and 1st April, 1987:

(i) Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association

(ii) Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India

(iii) Indian Medical Association

(iv) Indian Pharmaceutical Association

(v) Association for Consumers Action on Safety and Health

(vi) Arogya Mitra Mandal

(vii) Foundation for Research in Community Health.

(e) and (f) Two nominees of the Ministry of Health on the Committee could not attend the meeting due to last minute administrative difficulties. Another Member, Prof. Ramalingaswamy could not attend the meeting since he was abroad on a foreign assignment.

Expert committee for identification of drugs

970. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has appointed an expert committee to identify drugs for price control under category II of the proposed Drugs Price Control Order;

(b) if so, how many pharmacologists and medical experts have been taken in the committee alongwith their names and institutions to which each is attached;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain experts of other fields have been taken in the committee; if so, what are the names of those members;

(d) what were the considerations and objectives under which those members were selected;

(e) what is the term of reference of the committee alongwith the details of guidelines given to the committee;

(f) whether any criteria for identification of drugs have been provided to the committee; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The names of the Members of the Committee as partially modified on 2nd March, 1987 are given in the enclosed statement. [*See* Starred Question 169 supra]. They have been included in the Committee on the basis of their expertise and contribution in the field of Industrial Costs and Prices, Pharmacology, Food and Drug Administration and Medicines.

(e) to (g) Government has announced measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of the drugs and pharmaceutical industry in the country, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. In persuance thereof the Committee has been constituted to identify drugs to be included in Category II.

Unsatisfactory programme of biogas plants

971. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of biogas plants installed in various States are not functioning and huge quantity of financial assistance provided for them has been wasted;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what percentage of biogas plants installed so far are not functioning and what was the approximate financial subsidy provided for them by the Union and State Governments respectively;

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to repair these biogas plants which are not functioning; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government to minimise the percentage of failure in biogas plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

Evaluation survey study conducted by five independent agencies indicate that on an average about 15 percent of plants installed were non-functional at a given time. Installation of family based biogas plants is highly decentralised programme. A small percentage of biogas plants remain non-functional at a given time.

The amount of Central subsidy varies according to the capacity of the plants and category of beneficiaries; functionality of biogas plants depends upon many factors which *inter-alia* include structural defects, simple operational problems and external factors like drought, flood, litigation, etc. Besides, some State Governments are also providing additional subsidy. Therefore, it may not be feasible to indicate the subsidy provided for setting up of plants which are non-functional at any given time.

(d) Government has taken various steps to revive non-functional plants *viz.* provision of grants upto Rs. 500 per defective plant for repair of structural defects, organisation of one-day Users Training Courses in operation and maintenance of biogas plants, organisation of practical training for village masons and technicians in the construction of biogas plants, and provision of turn-key job fee at the rate of Rs. 300 per plant for construction on turn-key basis with a minimum of two years' warranty period. Higher repair charges are also being given on case by case basis.